

Haywire: Is the U.S. Running off the Rails?

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With every passing day, the United States resembles a majestic airliner rapidly descending toward disaster because of catastrophic engine failure.

The simile is apt if one takes one very brief look at the news:

- The US economy is tanking at an alarming rate: it shrunk at a 32.9% annual rate between April and June, the [deepest decline](#) since the U.S. government began keeping records in 1947.
- [Pandemic-related job losses were unprecedented in magnitude and speed.](#) “Unemployment has never been this high -- nor had it increased by so much, so rapidly -- since the Current Population Survey (CPS) began collecting unemployment data in 1947.”
- The George Floyd Troubles ignited unprecedented violent riots across the country spearheaded by such nefarious entities as Antifa, Blacks Life Matter, etc., which many in and out of government see as dangerous subversive organizations associated with foreign groups inimical to the security of the United States.
- At state level, many state and local governments are *descending straight into madness*. One eye-popping example is Seattle, the once gleaming Emerald City, where the city council [proposes to abolish the entire police force](#). Neighboring Portland, Oregon [“has remained the scene of terror and destruction for more than two months.”](#) Elsewhere mass riots, complete with vandalism, looting, and wanton destruction of public and private property, have been met with empty lukewarm calls for “peace” and “working together.”

- Only three months before the 2020 presidential election, Washington is mired in poisonous politicking, massive social media sniping and rumor mongering, and what President Trump’s opponents have dubbed “[The Billion-Dollar Disinformation Campaign to Reelect the President.](#)” Tensions have further received a massive boost by rumors that Trump may refuse to leave the White House if he feels the election result is illegitimate—prompting Nancy Pelosi, the top U.S. Congress Democrat, to announce that “[...Trump will be 'fumigated out' if he refuses to leave after White House loss.](#)” This is language never before heard in modern American politics.

With the pandemic showing no intention of going away soon, political, social, economic, and cultural tensions have all risen to perilous intensity. The measure of the day is now the so-called “cancel culture,” a vague term that describes the relentless persecution and disgrace of *anyone* who might express opinions publicly that go against current “social justice” norms. “Social justice,” in the meantime, remains a contested term. It emerges out of a mix of “antiracism,” “cultural appropriation,” campus “revolution,” and the various “regeneration” theories of how to reshape America according to a mind-boggling mix of mainly left ideologies, communist nostalgia (delivered usually in the form of ‘democratic socialism’), nihilism, and the demand by the “people” to dismantle the existing “oppressive police state” tyrannizing mainly minorities but, also, a nebulous “whole” of so many other “underprivileged.”

The Big Question right now is whether this Perfect Storm of crises piling up upon the country could unhinge the political system causing unprecedented instability and conflict.

Sending the United States into a prolonged socio-political tailspin, complete with relentless violence and conflict on the ground, will be a disaster of global proportions.

For all her troubles, America still remains the centerpiece of the global system. Destabilizing this centerpiece will reverberate across the globe, with countries like China and Russia, not to mention the various control centers of international Islamic terrorism, jumping at the golden opportunity to create their own havoc in pursuit of international prominence.

Any such chain of events could lead to an unthinkable Act II: Feeding a conflict dynamic that could trigger global war.